

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 NEW DE 02727 242245Z

41

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

SCCT-01 SY-05 IO-11 AID-05 PC-01 OMB-01 /081 W

----- 115925

R 240617Z FEB 76L

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4193

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 2727

FOLLOWING REPEAT BOMBAY 0433 SENT ACTION NEW DELHI INFO

CALCUTTA - MADRAS 23 FEB 76.

QUOTE:

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BOMBAY 0433

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PINT IN

SUBJECT: MRS GANDHI'S VISIT TO MAHARASHTRA

REF: BOMBAY 421

1. MRS GANDHI ARRIVED IN MAHARASHTRA ON SUNDAY, FEB 22 TO WHAT HAS BEEN DESCRIBED BY KNOWLEDGEABLE OBSERVERS AS AN UNPRECEDENTED WELCOME. AS WE REPORTED IN BOMBAY 421, ALL STOPS WERE PULLED OUT TO MAKE HER FIRST VISIT TO THIS STATE SINCE THE EMERGENCY SUCCESSFUL.

2. MRS GANDHI SAID VERY LITTLE NEW IN HER MAJOR ADDRESS TO 500,000 AT SHIVAJI PARK, SUNDAY AFTERNOON. SHE WARNED THAT "ANTI-NATIONAL FORNQS" STILL EXIST IN INDIA AND SHE CALLED ON THE PEOPLE TO BE VIGILANT AGAINST THEM. SHE ZEROED IN ON "CERTAIN FOREIGN POWERS"

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 NEW DE 02727 242245Z

WHO HAD BEEN CRITICIZING HER DAY IN ANDDAY OUT FOR WHAT THEY

TERMED "EROSION OF DEMOCRACY," AND WENT ON TO DESCRIBE THESE AS "THE SAME POWERS WHO THEMSELVES WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR TOPPLING 'DEMOCRATICALLY ELECTED GOVERNMENTS IN VARIOUS COUNTRIES.'" SHE ALSO CRITICIZED SOME "FOREIGN POWERS AND NEWSPAPERS" FOR THEIR ADMIRATION OF OPPOSITION GROUPS IN INDIA, SAYING SHE "DOES NOT KNOW THE RELATIONSHIP" BETWEEN THE OPPOSITION AND THESE NEWSPAPERS.

3. INTERESTINGLY, MRS GANDHI DOWNPLAYED THE 20-POINT PROGRAM SOMEWHAT, SAYING THAT IT IS ONLY THE BEGINNING OF THE MEASURES TAKEN TO BRING ABOUT SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CHANGES IN THE COUNTRY. BUT "THE COUNTRY IS SO BIG AND THE PROBLEMS SO COMPLEX AND MANIFOLD THAT THEY CANNOT BE SOLVED OVERNIGHT. WHEN ONE PROBLEM IS SOLVED, TEN OTHERS CROP UP. AND THE PATH TO PROGRESS AND PROSPERITY IS STREWN WITH STONES AND THORNS. THE RICH AND THE POOR, THE WORKERS AND THE INTELLECTUALS, ALL HAVE THEIR RIGHTFUL ROLE TO PLAY IN BUILDING A NEW INDIA," SHE IS QUOTED AS SAYING.

4. THE PRIME MINISTER APPEARED VERY POISED, VERY WELL RESTED, AND VERY VIGOROUS, A POINT STRESSED BY MOST OF THE PAPERS HERE. SHE MOVED ENERGETICALLY FROM POINT TO POINT ON THE PROGRAM, SHOWING CONSIDERABLE MORE ANIMATION THAN SHE HAD ON PREVIOUS VISITS TO BOMBAY. THE SECURITY LIKE HER RECEPTION, WAS UNPRECEDENTED IN BOMBAY, AND WHEN SHE ATTENDED THE SEMINAR ON "DISCIPLINED DEMOCRACY" AT SHANMUKHANANDA HALL, ARMED GUARDS WERE SEEN ON SURROUNDING BUILDINGS. THE PRESS REPORTED THE SECURITY WAS EXTREMELY TIGHT AT SHIVAJI PARK, WITH BAGS CARRIED BY PEOPLE IN THE FRONT AND VIP SECTIONS CHECKED AS THEY ENTERED THE PARK. WHEN SHE WENT UP WALKESHWAR ROAD TOWARD A FUNCTION AT A MINISTER'S HOME ON MALABAR HILL IN THE EVENING, POLICEMEN WERE STATIONED THE ENTIRE FEW MILES AT INTERVALS OF ABOUT EVERY FORTH FEET, ACCORDING TO ONE CONGEN OBSERVER.

5. RAJNI PATEL WAS VERY MUCH IN EVIDENCE DURING THE ENTIRE DAY, TENDING TO OVERSHADOW CHIEF MINISTER S.B.CHAVAN. HOWEVER, MRS GANDHI ACKNOWLEDGED HER APPRECIATION OF CHAVAN'S LEADERSHIP IN MAHARASHTRA, SAYING AT ONE POINT TO PATEL THAT HE COULD CONGRATULATE CHAVAN ON HER BEHALF ON THE COMPLETION OF HIS FIRST YEAR AS CHIEF MINISTER. WE HEAR FROM LOCAL POLITICAL SOURCES THAT MRS GANDHI'S VISIT WAS DESIGNED AT LEAST IN PART TO WARN CHAVAN'S OPPONENTS IN THE STATE THAT HE VERY MUCH HAS HER BACKING AND THAT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 NEW DE 02727 242245Z

THEY SHOULD ENTERTAIN NO IDEAS OF DISPLACING HIM.

6. ANOTHER INTERESTING DEVELOPMENT OF THE VISIT WAS THE EVIDENT PROMINENCE ON THE PROGRAM GIVEN TO HOMI SETHNA, WHICH MIGHT WELL BE AN INDICATION OF THE GROWING IMPORTANCE OF SETHNA AND THE NUCLEAR PROGRAM. AS THE FATHER OF INDIA'S NUCLEAR EXPLOSION, SETHNA UNDOUBTEDLY ENJOYS ALMOST UNPARALLELED POPULARITY AMONG THE MANAGERS OF INDIA'S MAJOR PROGRAMS.

7. THE VISIT WAS WELL-COVERED ON LOCAL TELEVISION, WITH ALMOST TWO FULL HOURS PRIME TIME COVERAGE DEVOTED TO THE PRIME MINISTER'S ACTIVITIES DURING THE DAY. THIS WAS FOLLOWED BY ABOUT FIFTEEN MINUTES COVERAGE DEVOTED TO SANJAY'S VISIT TO CALCUTTAM THUS AS WE COMMENTED IN OUR 431, THE PERSONALITY CULT BUILDUP WAS DEFINITELY IN HIGH GEAR IN BOMBAY FEB 22.

8. WE TOLD BY RELIABLE SOURCES THAT A NUMBER OF SOVIET CONSULATE AND INFORMATION SERVICE OFFICIALS WERE PRESENT AT THE SEMINAR ON "DISCIPLINED DEMOCRACY" AND WERE GIVEN RATHER PROMINENT SEATS. WE DO NOT KNOW HOW MANY OTHER CONSULATES WERE REPRESENTED, BUT WE HEAR THE FRENCH WERE PRESENT.

9. AS A FINAL NOTE, IN A STATEMENT DELIVERED IN A HUMOROUS VEIN AT THE MEETING OF INTELLECTUALS EARLY IN THE DAY MRS GANDHI ADMITTED THAT SHE IS "NEITHER LEARNED NOR AN INTELLECTUAL." SHE WENT ON TO SAY THAT SHE IS "SOMEBODY WHO CAME UP IN LIFE THE HARD WAY AND LEARNED THE HARD FACTS OF LIFE, THE LESSONS OF LIFE, BY LIVING LIFE." WE ARE NOT SURE HER CRITICS WILL TAKE SATISFACTION OUT OF HAVING THEIR EARLIER SUSPICIONS CONCERNING HER INTELLECTUALITY CONFIRMED, OR BE PUT ON THEIR GUARD EVEN FURTHER BY HER ADMISSION THAT SHE HAS LEARNED THE HARD WAY.
COURTNEY

UNQUOTE.
SAXBE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NATIONAL SECURITY, VISITS, SPEECHES, SOCIAL CHANGE, EMERGENCY PLANNING, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: saccheem
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976NEWDE02727
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760069-0628
From: NEW DELHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760219/aaaaaqll.tel
Line Count: 142
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 BOMBAY 421
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: saccheem
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22 JUL 2004 by coburnhl>; APPROVED <05 OCT 2004 by saccheem>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MRS GANDHI'S VISIT TO MAHARASHTRA
TAGS: PINT, IN, (GANDHI, INDIRA)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006